MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): With reference to the same answer, may I know whether certain portions of the road between Nagercoil and Azhakiapandipuram, where wheeled traffic is heavy, are in the worst condition? The answer is, certain portions of the road are *bad*. I wish to know whether they are aware that certain portions are in the *worst* condition?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is a matter of relative opinion whether these roads are bad, worse or worst

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I want just to know whether they are aware that the roads are in the worst condition?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In that road there must be some portions which are in the worst condition.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): The answer is that they are bad.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have already said that it is a matter of relative opinion.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): In the Preliminary Budget I come to know that provision is made for remetalling the remaining portions of the Balmore road, 1 to 8 miles, the worst portion.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): As I said before, in the same road some portions will be in a worse condition than others.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I just wanted to know whether they were bad or worse?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is a matter of opinion. Action is being taken to put the road in order.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): The answer to part (2) of the question is —

"No steam road roller was available".

The estimate for remetalling these roads was sanctioned on 19-10-1928. Since then 8 months have elapsed. Why could not the Chief Engineer give them steam rollers?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The few rollers that are available are meant for all the roads in the State. One of the steam rollers was utilised for work on a relatively more urgent portion of the M. S. road. Soon after, it got out of order, and it had to be sent back for repairs. The Chief Engineer now reports that the work will be over in a month.

Rajakkamangalam-Eraniel Road.

113. MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the date on which the Pannivaikkal bridge on the 7th mile of the Rajakkamangalam-Eraniel road was destroyed;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. D. C. Joseph.]

(*b*) whether any estimate was prepared for its reconstruction; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, how the matter stands at present (12-7-1929) ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Vrischikam 1098.

(*b*) Yes; and sanctioned by the Government in April 1928.

(*c*) The right abutment of the bridge has been completed and the foundation for the left started in Medam 1104.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether that particular bridge is very largely used by the agricultural population of that locality ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : May be.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : May I know from the member whether the Engineering Department is bound to look after the needs of the population at large ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : They exist for that.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : May I know from the member what is the cause of the six years' delay in getting the estimate sanctioned and the bridge repaired ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : One estimate was prepared originally presuming that one of the abutments could stand ; but when the work was begun, it was found that that abutment had also to be re-done.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : May I know from the Government when the first estimate was prepared ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : It was sanctioned on 2-5-1924.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : May I know when the subsequent estimate was prepared ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : It was sanctioned on 7-4-1928.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : I want to know when the subsequent estimate was prepared ? I know that sanction to the estimate was given in April 1928.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : I do not know. When the work began they found that the other abutments had also to be re-done. A new estimate was sanctioned and the work is progressing.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : May I know how many estimates were prepared ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Two.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of the question, may I know why that bridge was not expedited till now?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer reports that the right abutment of the bridge has been completed and the foundation for the left started. The work must go on before it is completed.

Prescription of Text-Books.

114. MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who is responsible for prescribing text-books;

(*b*) the time limit for a text-book; and

(*c*) whether any alteration was made in the time limit recently?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Director of Public Instruction.

(*b*) According to the rules in force the time limit for text books except those prescribed for public examinations, is three years.

(*c*) Yes. The time limit has been provisionally altered into one year for the current school year, pending a further consideration of the matter by the Government.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): May I know from the Government whether there is a Text-book Committee for prescribing text-books for schools?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Not for *prescribing*.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): May I know whether the Director of Public Instruction is responsible for prescribing text-books?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, he is given power to *select* text-books.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): May I know whether the Text-Book Committee has any power or any hand in the matter of prescribing text-books?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They send a list of approved books for the final choice of the Director.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): May I know whether the Director of Public Instruction is authorised to select text-books in all the languages *i. e.*, English, Malayalam, Tamil, etc.?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, I think so.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): With reference to the answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know whether any G. O. was issued regarding the alteration of the rules in force on the question of the time limit for text-books?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is a provision in the rules. According to the rules 3 years is the time limit.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly